

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 070140
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 ACDA-07
IO-13 AID-05 PC-01 SCS-03 OPR-02 /099 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:GHAMILTON:JR
APPROVED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN
-----300138Z 040334 /14

O 300109Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE - BORDER ATTACK ON
ZAIRE

1. PARA 2 -9 CONTAIN PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR
MARCH 29 DEPT BRIEFING FOR USE ONLY IF ASKED:
2. QUESTION: HAVE THE AMERICAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
EMPLOYEES BEEN EVACUATED FROM KOLWEZI?

A: MORRISON-KNUDSEN'S AFFILIATE, CONSTRUCTEURS
INGA-SHABA, HAS INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT ITS 41 EMPLOYEES
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PAGE 02 STATE 070140

EMPLOYEES REMAINING KOLWEZI WERE EVACUATED THE AFTERNOON
OF MARCH 29 TO KANANGA. THE COMPANY ALSO AGREED TO
EVACUATE TWO OTHER PRIVATE AMERICANS RESIDENT IN
KOLWEZI. THE EMPLOYEES WERE EVACUATED IN THE COMPANY'S
OWN AIRCRAFT.

3. Q: HOW MANY AMERICANS STILL REMAIN IN KOLWEZI?

A: FOUR AMERICAN MISSIONARIES HAVE REMAINED IN THE CITY,
TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE.

4. Q: ARE THE OTHER INHABITANTS OF KOLWEZI EVACUATING
THE CITY?

A: WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON OTHER GROUPS' PLANS.

5. Q: IS KOLWEZI THREATENED BY THE INVADING FORCES?

A: THE INVADING FORCES REMAIN IN THE AREA WEST OF
KOLWEZI, BUT WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO BE MORE
PRECISE ABOUT THE SITUATION.

6. ONLY IF ASKED:

Q: WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE EMBASSY'S DEFENSE ATTACHE
WAS IN KOLWEZI? WHY?

A: THE DEFENSE ATTACHE, WHO PILOTED THE AIRCRAFT
ASSIGNED TO THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE, WAS IN KOLWEZI
TO ASSIST CIS IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF ITS CONTINGENCY
PLAN FOR THE EVACUATION OF CIS PERSONNEL.

7. Q: WAS THE ATTACHE PLANE USED TO EVACUATE AMERICANS
FROM KOLWEZI?

A: THE ATTACHE PLANE REMOVED CIS' LAST AMCIT EMPLOYEE
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PAGE 03 STATE 070140

WHO HAD STAYED TO SERVICE PLANE.

8. Q: WHAT ABOUT MISSIONARIES AND PCVS IN THE AREA?

A: OUR CONSULATE IN LUBUMBASHI, AS WELL AS THE
EMBASSY, ARE WATCHING CAREFULLY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE
AREA AND HAVE ADVISED AMERICANS IN THE AREA TO TAKE
APPROPRIATE PRECAUTIONS.

9. Q: ANY PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE NIGERIAN EFFORTS?

A: I FEEL IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO COMMENT AT
THIS TIME ON THE NIGERIAN EFFORTS, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT
WE WELCOME AND SUPPORT THIS DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE.

10. IF ASKED ONLY:

Q: I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS A PARTIALLY-AMERICAN-OWNED
COPPER PROJECT IN SHABA. ARE THE EMPLOYEES OF THAT

PROJECT EVACUATING TOO?

A: THE SOCIETE MINIERE DE TENKE-FUNGURUME IS A
MULTINATIONAL COPPER MINING AND REFINING PROJECT, WITH

ABOUT 30 PERCENT U.S. OWNERSHIP. THE PROJECT IS
CURRENTLY MOTHBALLED AND ONLY A SKELETON CREW REMAINS
IN FUNGURUME. THERE ARE REPORTEDLY NO US CITIZEN
EMPLOYEES OF SMTF AT THE SITE.

11. FYI: US PRESS COVERAGE OF EVENTS IN ZAIRE
HAS BEEN COMPARATIVELY LIGHT FOR THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO
To: KINSHASA LUSAKA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
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